

# THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - - EDITOR.

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The taxpayers would like to get a glimpse of the translation bills of the Legislature.

It was better to spend the public money on the plague than to leave it for this Legislature to fool away.

Home Rulers would not object to swallowing the Republican party but they do not take to the idea of letting a small faction of the Republican party swallow them.

The Dispensary bill is probably lost for this session, but the way is open to begin a campaign of education which will enable the people, before the next Legislature meets, to make up their minds fairly upon the merits of the proposed change in the liquor laws.

The Home Rule caucus is said to have opposed the confirmation of T. F. Lansing and Andrew Brown because of their part in the affair of '93. It is not stated whether Home Ruler Emmelhuth, whose name headed the 1893 committee, took part in the caucus, but we cherish the hope that he had the grace to stay out.

The spirit of nihilism in Russia and of socialism in Germany makes war not unlikely as a means of composing local differences. If the Czar can get up a big fight, nihilism will be likely to subside in the meantime. Germany, for the same reason, needs a foreign war, the attitude of the populace being now distinctly hostile to the Government.

There seems to be a reasonable prospect of early if not permanent peace in the Philippines. Many rebels are surrendering and Aguinaldo is said to have signed a peace proclamation. From now on if civil affairs are managed with discretion there may be a steady recession of military and naval expenses and a corresponding growth of respect among the islands for American citizenship.

The suggestion of this journal that a lecturer on Hawaii, fitted out with lantern slides and a civilized exhibit, should be sent to Buffalo, is likely to be taken up. There is a prospect that Daniel Logan may go on such a mission. He has already done similar work and done it well, hence a very general hope that he will be given a chance at Buffalo to counteract the Midway misrepresentations there.

Trades Unionism will lack for sympathy in Honolulu at times when it may deserve it, if its policy is to lose \$100,000 for the town rather than to permit employers to keep a certain foreman. That is too high a price to pay for a small grievance; and it is a price of which the strikers must carry their share. The contracts which will go to the Coast take a small fortune away from Honolulu and in the meantime various large enterprises, employing labor, are held back.

Two bills, signed by the Governor, and printed elsewhere, now become a law through publication. One is an Act providing for the repair of roads and bridges and other public works injured by the February storm. An appropriation of \$26,500 is carried divided as follows: Hawaii, \$8000; Maui, \$12,500; Molokai, \$1,000; Kauai, \$4,000. The other is an Act to prevent the employment of minors in saloons and to prevent minors from visiting such places. The law is one of the best in its intent and effect of any the Legislature has considered.

The vaccination statistics and arguments adduced by the doctors made an impressive array of testimony and ought to be enough to convince even this Legislature, that compulsory vaccination is a wise policy for Hawaii. The argument that personal liberty is invaded by the process amounts to very little. No one has a right to such liberty when it implies danger to the life of his neighbor. All quarantines restrict personal initiative; all sanitary laws must, in some degree do so. A state must proceed along the lines of the greatest good to the greatest number and the general protection of society from harm. In the performance of that duty individual prejudices, likes and dislikes, must be, to a great extent, disregarded.

The fine Italian touch of the demagogue was seen in Wilcox's statement that he would be able to get public land for every Hawaiian. The idea conveyed was that the Government, under a change in the present island laws, would simply hand out deeds to every corner, Hawaiians preferred, and let them do as they pleased with them. The process is quite different. If lands are ever opened up here as they were in Oklahoma, citizens of the United States from every part of the country will have a chance to locate them; but no man will be able to get a title to his acreage until he has lived on it five years and made certain improvements. Taking up public lands means deferred deeds and much expense of time and labor and some expense of money in "proving up." Wilcox says nothing about this, of course; he merely wants to start the Hawaiians rainbow chasing.

Undoubtedly the state of the Porto Rican poor is worse now than it was under the sovereignty of Spain, but the reason is one that reflects upon the poor themselves and not upon the United States. When the American flag was raised in Porto Rico everybody stopped work and began to play. It was a time of continuous festa. The impression got out, as it did among the "forty-acres-and-a-mule" negroes of the South after the Civil War, that Uncle Sam was going to be a Santa Claus. Soon the hurricane swept the island and Uncle Sam, as a matter of temporary service to the destitute, did become a grand almoner, with the result that the whole laboring population made up its mind that it need never work again—the great republic owed it a living. Naturally destitution did not try to rescue itself and it remains, with outstretched palms, waiting for the aid it sullenly refuses to deserve.

## THE MANCHURIAN QUESTION.

It is still uncertain, says the New York Sun, whether the proposed convention between the Russian and Chinese Governments will be concluded. Neither is there, as yet, any ground for believing that any of the foreign powers now represented at Peking will protest against the signing of that convention, or will support China in a refusal to sign it. Why should a protest be made? An answer to the question requires, first, a knowledge of the text of the proposed convention, which has not been published; and, secondly, a recognition of the fact that, not only geographically, but also in the eye of international law, Russia occupies toward China a position different from that held by any other of the treaty powers.

So far as the attack on the foreign legations at Peking and the assassination of foreigners in many parts of China are concerned, Russia's relation to the Chinese Government, which ordered or tolerated those outrages, is indistinguishable from that of Great Britain or that of the United States. As a matter of convenience, the Russian Foreign Office, like our own State Department, has chosen to assume that those injuries did not, technically, constitute acts of war. Whatever may be thought of the wisdom of that assumption or of the difficulty of reconciling it with the punitive expeditions and wholesale massacres for which Germany and France have principally made themselves responsible, and at which, it must be admitted, some other powers have connived, it is certain that Russia has suffered wrongs of an exceptional nature, which she is at perfect liberty to construe as acts of war, and which, indeed, can hardly bear any other construction. We refer to the invasion of Russian territory lying north of the Amur river by Chinese regular soldiers, whose commander produced, in justification of his course, orders emanating directly from the court at Peking.

Now, while the murder of Russian officials in Manchuria and the destruction of a part of the Manchurian branch of the Trans-Siberian Railway might, like similar losses of life and property by subjects or citizens of other powers in that part of China lying south of the Great Wall, be held, theoretically, not necessarily to satisfy the definition of a casus belli, it cannot, for a moment, be denied that the invasion of Russian territory under the circumstances just mentioned was an act whose warlike character is incapable of extenuation. This act, entirely apart from the grievances which Russia has complained of in common with other treaty powers, would, as we have said, have justified her in pursuing an entirely independent course, and in despatching an army directly against Peking, or against any other city in which the Chinese court might find a refuge. The fact that Russia has, hitherto, refrained from availing herself of the provocation given does not of itself impair her right to accept the challenge, and we know of no ground on which any of the treaty powers could fairly object to a frank declaration on the part of the St. Petersburg Government that, by way of reprisal for the Chinese invasion of Siberia, it purposed to undertake the permanent conquest of Manchuria.

Such is the fundamental distinction between the position occupied by Russia and that of the other treaty powers, and it is, no doubt, a recognition of it that caused Count von Bulow to say in the Reichstag that the Anglo-German agreement did not cover the case of Manchuria. He acknowledges, apparently, that, while Russia, whose soldiers helped to defend the foreign settlement at Tien-tsin and to rescue the legations at Peking, is entitled to share in the pecuniary indemnities exacted by the treaty powers for the losses of life and property suffered by their respective subjects or citizens in China, she has a particular grievance of her own, in that she has incurred an actual invasion of her territory by Chinese regular troops acting under orders from the Peking government. It is by no means evident that any other power has any business to discuss the nature of the reparation which Russia may choose to demand for that indisputable act of war.

It may be said, however, that Russia has given the other treaty powers a right, which they did not originally possess, by declaring that, notwithstanding the Chinese invasion of Siberia, she did not purpose to retaliate by annexing Manchuria. Whether Russia has ever made an unequivocal declaration to that effect is disputed; the London National Review maintains that the written reply given by the St. Petersburg Foreign Office to an inquiry on the subject was evasive and ambiguous. Be that as it may, it is now verbally asserted by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs and by his representatives abroad, that the proposed convention between Russia and China does not involve the annexation of Manchuria, but simply provides guarantees for the maintenance of the security and order which are indispensable for the Russian occupants of Tientsin and Port Arthur, and for the prosecution of work upon the Manchurian branch of the Trans-Siberian Railway. The purport of the proposed convention must, of course, be assumed to be what the Russian Foreign Office at St. Petersburg says it is. If it is, not only is there no ground for protest, but, evidently, Russia has made a great deal less than she might have made out of the provocation afforded by the Chinese invasion of Siberia.

If China refuses to sign the proposed convention, it is manifest that relations between her and Russia will revert to the status which they occupied before the negotiations touching Russia's individual and separate grievance were begun. That is to say, Russia would be at liberty to avow a purpose of effecting a permanent conquest of Manchuria, by way of reprisals for the Chinese invasion of Siberia. It is probable enough that she would find an opponent in Japan, were not the latter power isolated, but, as things are now,

there is no likelihood that the Mikado would find an ally against the Czar in either Germany or Great Britain, much less in the United States; while, as for France, that power would, certainly, in the event of extended complications, be found on the Russian side.

If war breaks out between Russia and Japan, the latter power will be found in a state of complete readiness. No civilized troops ever moved so rapidly, upon a declaration of war, as did the Japanese in 1894. They had a big army on Korean soil within ten days, and that army did not lack for a single thing it needed, including bundles of faggots to use for camp fires in a treeless land. The day hostilities with Russia begin, an army will embark upon transports at Ujuna, on the inland sea, and within two days—perhaps within twenty-four hours—it will start for Corea conveyed by the most powerful fleet ever seen in Asiatic waters. All the plans for such a coup de main were worked out by the late General Kawakami, and the army and navy are but waiting the signal to advance.

The Venezuelan Consul who thinks that an American fleet would not dare bombard his home ports, because of the foreign property located there, cherishes a delusion. When England fired upon Alexandria and the United States upon San Juan de Porto Rico, Matanzas, Manila and Santiago de Cuba, foreign property had to take its chances. It would be the same way with Venezuelan ports. If the United States is obliged to collect indemnity from Venezuela by force it will act with summary address and settle with foreign property-owners afterward.

## NEWS OF WORLD CONDENSED

The Scottish strikes are ended. Lord Salisbury is now in France. The strike in Marseilles is at an end. Mrs. John A. Logan is seriously ill at Washington.

New cases of plague are daily developing in Cape Town. Seven hundred tons of alcohol were burned at a fire in Peru.

Six-penny reprints of the works of prominent authors are having a big sale in London.

The Pretoria correspondents say that the Boers must be crushed as they will never surrender.

It is feared that there will be great floods from the swollen Merrimack river in Massachusetts.

Mrs. Powell Webster, an American singer in Germany, is being scathingly criticized in Berlin.

A west-bound limited was derailed and wrecked April 8 near Wells, Nevada. Two firemen were killed.

Three hundred squaws were distributed by a Cheyenne chief in Oklahoma recently after a sacrificial dance.

Mrs. Bodkin, the murderess, has been confronted with her alleged double. There is a very slight resemblance.

It is said that Japanese shipping companies have been instructed to hold their vessels in readiness for transport service.

The robber who stole the Gainsborough painting recently found has been identified and is well known to the New York police.

The Kaiser has warned his troops against listening to the voice of temptation and threatened woe to any unfaithful soldier.

An attempt was made to wreck a west-bound train in Idaho last week, ties being piled across the track. An hour's delay resulted.

According to reports from St. Petersburg, import duties at Vladivostok have been raised on all American iron, steel and machinery.

China has agreed to the list of punishments and now the question of Legation guards is proving a stumbling block to the Ministers.

The value of the military cyclists was recently tested in London with favorable results except that success is dependent upon the weather.

Insurgent officers and men are coming in from the mountains and surrendering themselves and their rifles to the Americans in the Philippines.

A running battle between bank robbers and pursuing citizens took place at Frankfort, Ind., last week. One robber and a pursuer were killed.

It is reported that a hard fight has taken place between the Siberian rifle regiments and several thousand Chinese with heavy loss to the Chinese.

The handling of the orange crop as to freight matters has been much improved as a result of the complaints of Southern California orchardists.

Americans intending to visit Europe have been warned to beware of brigands in Naples, as Americans are the particular prey of lawless Neapolitans.

A Nebraska school teacher saved her pupils and the school house in a flood by harnessing a horse to the building, the strength of the horse holding the house.

The Philippine Commission has prepared recommendations as to the form of general civil governments to be established temporarily for the Philippines July 1.

The panic which resulted from an earthquake at the banquet recently given by the Turkish Sultan was quieted by a singer who chanted a prayer from the Koran.

## BAINBRIDGE, M. A.

What a Distinguished Visitor Thinks of Hawaii.

Editor Advertiser: I think Hawaii "A vision of the most ethereal loveliness." lovely beyond all earthly expression and forcibly suggestive of romance is Hawaii to the eye of a poet or an artist. An ambrosial dream from which one expects to presently have a rude awakening and discover a more stern and dreary existence; but it is not so; Hawaii is a "Terrestrial Garden of Eden"—"Paradise revealed in earthly form." If one happened to be journeying to Paradise and reached Hawaii, they would at once conclude that their journey had ended. Evening in Hawaii brings back to my mind the blissful days of boyhood when my heart beat with intense delight at the wondrous fairy tales my mother would tell—the band from amidst a cluster of trees pours forth in liquid strains which the mellow breeze wafts to our ears, inspiring our souls and touching our better feelings which the harsh rattle and commotion of most cities tend to stifle—and what a glorious tonic for one in the early morning, plants bedecked with diamond dewdrops, bending with the softest motion, the stately palms, the birds flitting to and fro singing their thankful hymns to the Creator, the hills gazing majestically, the sun rising supremely tinging the picture with its golden light, while the ocean murmurs in pathetic music some melody from its mighty bosom, making the most delightful composite of ecstasy! A picture never to be effaced from one's memory.

BAINBRIDGE.

## Eruptions

Dry, moist, scaly tetter, all forms of eczema or salt rheum, pimples and other cutaneous eruptions proceed from humors, either inherited, or acquired through defective digestion and assimilation.

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The thing to do is to help the system discharge the humors, and to strengthen it against their return.

Hood's Sarsaparilla permanently cured J. G. Hines, Franks, Ill., of eczema, from which he had suffered for some time; and Miss Alvina Walter, Box 212, Algona, Wis., of pimples on her face and back and chafed skin on her body, by which she had been greatly troubled. There are more testimonials in favor of this great medicine than can be published.

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